

"If You Want To" Dance Routines

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These are non-symmetric dance routines and I'm not a expert in non-symmetric choreography. They are canned formulas that I have used to provide the concept to square dancers. I've found that these two routines meet the interests of the dancers I've called for.

The idea behind "If You Want To" dance routines is the dancers decide whether they want to execute certain commands. Depending on who decides "yes" and who decides "no", each square dance set can look different.

Then the caller follows a formula to sort every square back to where the men and the ladies are in-sequence in a standard FASR and can be resolved back to a Static Square. I'm going to show you two ways. There are many more. I picked these two ideas up from a book by Gene Trimmer named "Specialized Squares and Crowd Pleasers" published in 1987.

What Gene published was accompanied with much more detail. What I'm going to show you is a much stripped down version.

The first version starts from a Static Square. Be sure to read the notes and study the graphic shown in the next column.

If You Want To, Face Your Corner & Box The Gnat¹...

(Insert Heads Square Thru =² Module)

(Insert Zero Module³)

If You Want To, Pass Thru ... If You Did, U-Turn Back ... All Star Thru ... Bend The Line⁴ ... Right & Left Thru ... Slide Thru (CB)

Notes:

1) Any number of couples can choose to **Box the Gnat** with their corners. Only #1 Man and #4 Ladies have **Boxed the Gnat** in the graphic. Remind them to square the set as shown in the graphic.

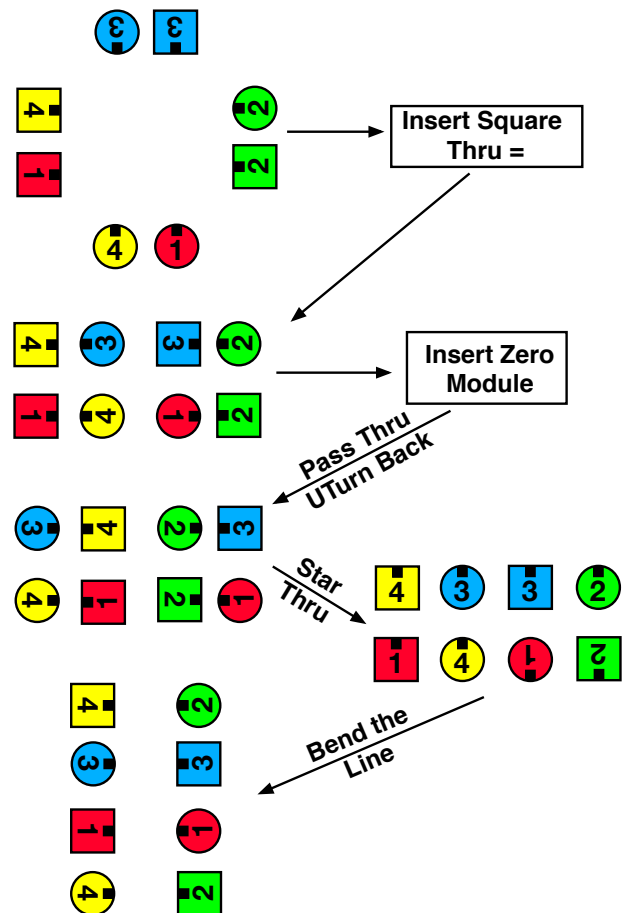
2) Either **Square Thru 4** or substitute an equivalent.

3) Use only CB-CB Zeros which have gender

neutral commands. See examples. I suggest only using short Modules.

4) After the **Bend the Line**, the set is back to a normal FASR. **Square Thru 3** will resolve the square to Lines of Four Facing Out. If you wish to use a different Getout, that is your choice.

Gene suggested several equivalents for **Pass Thru ... U-Turn Back**. **Touch 1/4** and If you did face right was his choice. This frees both hands for the **Star Thru**.



Equivalents can be substituted for **Bend the Line**. I liked using **Cast Off 3/4**. It gave a very different feel to the dance routine.

The minimum length of the routine, if you do not insert any Zero, is eight "basics". I usually ran the minimum routine once and then inserted a single short Zero.

Several Examples of gender neutral Modules are listed below.

Square Thru=

Heads DoSaDo ... Face the Sides ...

Heads Promenade Half ... 1/2 Square Thru ...

Heads Swing Thru ... Spin the Top ... Pass Thru ...

Heads Pass Thru ... Separate ... Around Two to a Line ... Ends Fold ...

CB-CB

Swing Thru ... Centers Run ... Ferris Wheel ... Centers Pass Thru ...

Pass to the Center ... All Double Pass Thru ... Lead Pair Partner Trade ...

Veer Left ... Cast Off 3/4 ... Circle Four Left 3/4 ...

Touch 1/4 ... Walk & Dodge ... Bend the Line ... Touch 1/4 ... Walk & Dodge ... Trade By ...

Turn Thru ... Centers Turn Thru ... Outsides U-Turn Back ...

The temptation is to get too long and too complex in the Zero Modules. This is a gimmick to entertain the dancers it's not a contest.

The second dance routine starts and ends in Partner Lines. The graphic shows only the #1 couple **Boxing the Gnat**.

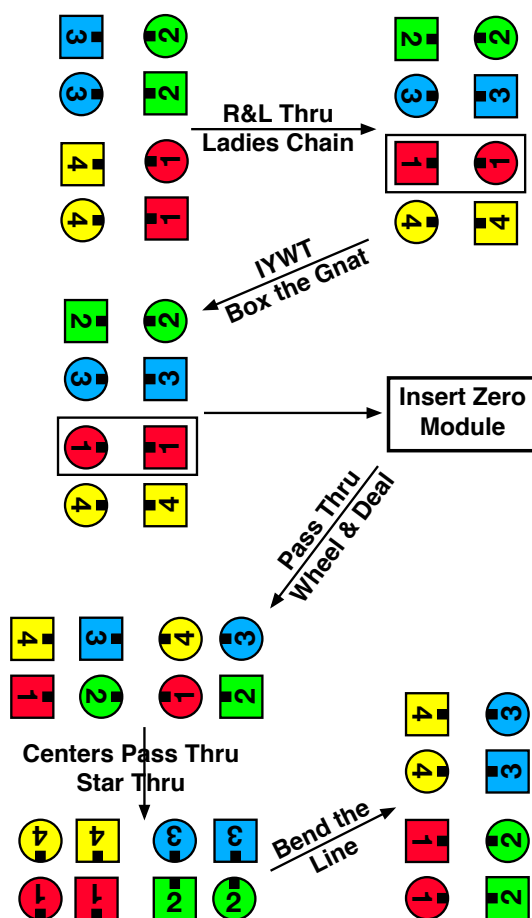
PL-PL

Right & Left Thru ... Ladies Chain ...

If You Want To Box The Gnat ... (Insert Zero) ...

Pass Thru ... Wheel & Deal ... Centers Pass Thru ... Star Thru ... Bend The Line ...

Of the two routines, this is the routine I used the most. There are several equivalents that can be substituted for **Pass Thru** and **Wheel & Deal**. And the dancer response was better.



PL-PL

Pass Thru ... Bend the Line ... Pass Thru ... Bend the Line ...

Pass Thru ... Wheel & Deal ... Double Pass Thru ... 1st Couple Left, Next Right ...

Pass the Ocean ... Spit Circulate Twice ... If you are on the ends Run ... Cast Off 3/4 ...

Pass the Ocean ... Spit Circulate Twice ... Single Hinge ... If your facing out Run ...

Pass Thru ... Tag the Line In ... Pass Thru ... Tag the Line ... Centers In ... Cast Off 3/4 ...

Touch 1/4 ... Column Circulate ... Center 4 Box Circulate ... Split Circulate ... Face the one beside you Pass Thru ... Partner Trade* ...

* The last example Module will take very sharp dancers.